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INDIA'S CONCERN AND POLICY OVER CHINA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

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Abstract:

By the help and complete support of India, East Pakistan became Bangladesh 1971. The birth history of Bangladesh is very much connected with India. There were so many treaties between this two neighbouring nation. We may say that good relation at the maximum stage. Since 1971, India was the number one trading partner of Bangladesh. However, China's trade with Bangladesh has increased diverse in current years to exceed India from 2001 onwards. This relation with China has established by late president Ziaur Rahman after the assassination of President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. And it comes in a bigger picture from 1991-1996. At that time the government of Bangladesh has taken the look east policy by the leadership of Prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia. After 1996, the first regime of Prime minister Sheikh Hasina shifted from look east policy to strengthen friendship with India. In between policy changes happened for regime-changing in the time of BNP-Jamaat Government from 2001 to 2006. But the major changes took place in a recent year. The Awame league government is giving more importance to have strong economic and political relations with China from 2011. This article inspects the numerous influences that have donated to China's increasing presence in Bangladesh as compared to India's decline with related to trade and investment. India has noticeably lost out to China in many important industries. While studying and evaluating recent developments, the study also presents a strategy to counter India's declining economic influence in Bangladesh.

Key Words:

India, Policy, China-Bangladesh Relations, Foreign Policy, Development.

1. Introduction

While India played a pivotal role in the independence of Bangladesh, it now witnesses a shift in the priority given to its ties by its Eastern neighbour. Dhaka desires good relations with India but fears the shadow of its western Big Brother. Hence Bangladesh has welcomed China to be one of its most vital partners in the decades since 1971. The matrix of Beijing- Dhaka relations permeates multiple avenues, ranging from strategic to commercial, from energy security to infrastructural. Of these the strategic ties are one of the most salient.

China-Bangladesh have moved ahead steadily in spite of profound changes in the domestic politics of both countries and major international developments during the last three decades. China has emerged as a reliable partner to Bangladesh Extending economic, military and diplomatic support. While simultaneously attempting to gain a strategic foothold in south Asia and benefit from Bangladesh's natural resources. The recent visit of Chinese President to Bangladesh made it apex of the history of Bangladesh-China bilateral relation ever seen. Now the relation between Bangladesh is not only fact in bilateral relation but also in international politics more specifically in geopolitics. Chinese President Xi Jinping quoted to intense "strategic partnership". Let's have a brief dynamics of Bangladesh- China relations.

On the other hand India Bangladesh Relations are not same in terms of trade. China took India's places. Where, before 2004 India was the first trading partner of Bangladesh, Now it China. we are going to discuss the relations between China and Bangladesh and India's Concern and Policy.

2. Brief History of China-Bangladesh Relations

China and Bangladesh established diplomatic relations on 4- October 1975. With though 1974 Bangladesh- Pakistan- India treaty, China finally withdraw its opposition to UN recognition of Bangladesh. It was only after Sk. Mujib's assassination in 1975. That China recognized Bangladesh. In 2002, the BNP led four party coalition government adopted a "look East policy" to maximize economic and strategic gains. While this shift in policy was primarily aimed at trade diversification Bangladesh also sought closer relations with China.

2.1 Political Relations

The People's Republic of China and the People's Republic of Bangladesh officially established diplomatic relations on October 4, 1975. Since then the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries have been growing soundly and smoothly.

Fruitful cooperation has been achieved in the fields of politics, economy, military and culture, etc. Both the countries share basically identical opinions on most international and regional issues and conduct close coordination with each other in the international arena.

There have existed between China and Bangladesh frequent exchanges of high-level visits, increasing contacts as well as expanding cooperation in various fields.

Sino-Bangladesh relations in the period of Ziaur Rahman

After coming into power in November 1975, Ziaurur Rahman carried out a foreign policy of non-alignment and actively developed its relations with China. In January 1977, under China's invitation Ziaur Rahman visited China as Chief Executive of Marshal Law and Chief of the Army Staff of Bangladesh. During his period This two governments signed the Agreement of Economic and Technological Cooperation and the Agreement of Trade Payment. Following Mr. Zia in March 1978, Vice Premier Li Xiannian was invited to visit Bangladesh. This is the first ever visit taken by Chinese leadership to Bangladesh.

Sino-Bangladesh relations in the period of Hussain Mohammad Ershad

Mr. Hussain Mohammad Ershad followed the legacy of Former President Ziaurur Rahman. Mr. Ershad paid visited to China for five times (respectively in November 1982, July 1985, July 1987, November 1988 and in June 1990). During his meetings with Chinese leadership, Mr. Ershad said the relations between China and Bangladesh had most solid foundation since both the countries enjoyed common targets and interests. The Chinese side stressed that the Sino-Bangladesh relationship was that of mutual trust and mutual support. China appreciated Bangladesh's principled stand on adhering to "one China" policy and having no official ties with Taiwan.

Sino-Bangladesh relations in the period of Khaleda Ziaur

In March 1991, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won the election and Begum Khaleida Zia became Prime Minister of the government. The new government declared to inherit the internal and external policies of the late President Ziaur Rahman. In June 1991 Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited to China. During her regime both country took a policy of develop friendly relations with each other.

Sino-Bangladesh relations in the period of Sheikh Hashina

In June 1996, Sheikh Hashina became Prime Minister. After coming into power, the Awami League paid importance to the friendly ties with China and the Sino-Bangladesh relations continued to develop stably. In September 1996, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited to China, which was her first visit to foreign countries after assuming the Prime Minister's office.

China - Bangladesh relations after Begum Khaleda Zia

In October 2001 Khaleda Zia again became prime minister of the government after five years. The Nationalist Party continued to carry out the traditional friendship policy towards China and so the friendly cooperation relations between China and Bangladesh obtained new development. The two countries signed Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Certificate of Handover of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center, Executive Program of the Cultural Agreement for 2001-2003 and four other agreements.

In December 2002, Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur visited China. The Chinese side reiterated its policy of attaching high importance to the relations between the two countries, and pointed out that there were no obstacles hindering the bilateral relations and the objective of both sides was to consolidate the bilateral friendship and to deepen the bilateral cooperation. The two countries signed Exchange of Letters Regarding the Loan Used for the Project of Bangladesh-China Friendship International Conference Center to Be Converted to Grant, Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation and two other agreements. In this regime both of the country had strong trade relations. China took place the position in terms of trade, where before 2005; India was the first trading partner of Bangladesh. After 2005, China ensures that position with Bangladesh.

2.2 Trade and Economic Relations

To assess the relation between Bangladesh and China we first have to look over economic relation as Bangladesh is 3rd largest trading partner of China. Let's have a look to the chart.

Year	Export (Million Dollar)	Import (Million Dollar)
1997-98	48.51	592.46
1998-99	10.61	560.47
1999-00	10.56	568.06
2000-01	11.67	708.94
2001-02	18.92	657.78
2002-03	19.50	779.50
2003-04	45.65	1132.72
2004-05	56.07	1643.77
2005-06	64.35	2078.99
2006-07	92.97	2572.62
2007-08	106.95	3136.70
2008-09	97.06	3451.47
2009-10	178.63	3819.28

2010-11	319.66	5912.55
2011-12	401.94	6433.21
2012-13	458.12	6324
2015-16	9.8 Billion	808.14

Source: Import Payment, Bangladesh Bank and Export Statistics, Export Promotion Bureau & Bangladesh Bank.

China mainly imports: raw materials like leather, cotton, textiles, fish etc.

China major exports to Bangladesh: include textiles machinery and electronic products, cement, fertilizer, tire, raw silk, maize etc.

In 2005, Chinese Prime Minister Win Jiabao visited Bangladesh. Various agreements were signed during this visit. On transportation side, China and Bangladesh have agreed to start Inaugurating direct Air route between Dhaka and Beijing via Kunming. The Chinese premier readily agreed to construct the Di-aluminum phosphate, Fertilizer factory in Chittagong. (In 2007)

2.3 BCIM Economic Corridor

The kunming initiative, later on known as the BCIM route (Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar) was reportedly discussed with Indian leaders during Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's India visit in May 2013. With joint efforts by China, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh, a highway route starting from kunming the capital city of Yunnan province to India by way of Myanmar has been reportedly approved in principle by the relevant departments of the four countries. The joint statement issued at the end of Keqiang's visit to India said that encouraged by the successful BCIM Car Rally of February 2013 between Kolkata and Kunming, which called K2K. The two sides had agreed to consult the other parties to establish a Joint Study Group on strengthening connectivity in the BCIM region for closer economic, trade, and people-to-people linkages, and to initiate the development of a BCIM Economic Corridor.

2.4 Military Relation

Arm supply:

China has emerged as a major supplier of arms to the Bangladesh Armed Forces. In 2006, China supplied 65 artillery guns and 114 missiles and related systems (The Assam Tribune,

October 9, 2007). Most of the tanks (T-59, T-62, T-69, and T-79), a large number of armored personnel carriers (APCs), artillery pieces and small arms and personal weapons in the Bangladesh Army are of Chinese origin. There are plans to acquire 155mm PLZ-45/Type-88 (including transfer of technology) and 122mm Type-96 as well MBRLs from China by 2011 (defence.pk/forum, March 19, 2009).¹

Naval supply:

The Bangladeshi Navy is largely made up of Chinese-origin platforms. These include the 053-H1 Jianghu I class frigates with 4 x HY2 missiles, Huang Feng class missile boats, Type-024 missile boats, Huchuan and P 4 class torpedo boats, Hainan class sub chasers, Shanghai class gun boats and Yuchin class LCUs. The BNS Khalid Bin Walid has been retrofitted with HQ-7 SAM from China. (FM-90 Surface-to-Air Missile System, bdmilitary.com). In 2008, BNS Osman successfully test fired a C-802 ASM in the presence of the Chinese Defense Attaché Senior Colonel Ju Dewu (The Daily Star, May 13, 2008). The Chinese Navy Hospital ship “Peace Ark” visited Chittagong and provided free medical treatment to thousands of Bangladeshi people.

Since 2010, Beijing has supplied Dhaka with five maritime patrol vessels, two corvettes, 44 tanks, and 16 fighter jets, as well as surface-to-air and anti-ship missiles, according to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Air equipment supply:

China began supplying fighter aircraft to the Bangladesh Air Force in 1977 and, over the years, has delivered F7 and Q5 fighter aircraft and PT 6 Trainers [5]. In 2005, 16 F-7BG were ordered and the deliveries began in 2006 (Bangladesh Biman Bahini, scramble.nl, July 5, 2009).

2.5 Potential Areas

Building a deep sea port in Bangladesh, Bangladesh is seeking Chinese help to build deep sea port. It would cost billions of dollars, if a Chinese company were to be awarded the contract, Sonadia would become the fourth port to be constructed by a Chinese firm in the Bay of Bengal

✓ Chittagong-Kunming connectivity: China and Bangladesh are developing road links between Kunming to Chittagong, via Myanmar which called the Chittagong-Kunming Road and Railway Link, could be a boon for Bangladeshi infrastructure and trade. It would also

¹ <https://jamestown.org/program/china-bangladesh-relations-and-potential-for-regional-tensions/>

provide a cheaper alternative than is presently available for shipping goods between China and its western neighbors.

✓ **Infrastructural development:** Chinese accumulated aid to Bangladesh reached 1 billion US dollars at the end of 2013. Six friendship bridges in Bangladesh have been built, and the Seventh is under way. Many other mega infrastructure projects are under construction with Chinese fund and technical support.

✓ **Strengthening security and anti-terrorism cooperation:** No development could be achieved without sound security situation. Both China and Bangladesh are victims of terrorism and extremism, and should strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the militaries and law enforcement departments to safeguard respective national security and stability and promote peace and stability in the region.

3. Recent Issue of Bangladesh-China Relations

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to China:

China laid out a red carpet welcome for Ms. Hasina — on her third visit here. Both leaders pledged to step up financial assistance and involvement in infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, Chinese Premier said that Bangladesh would be “an active partner” in a “China-led Asian century,” Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has underlined her willingness to deepen her country’s strategic and economic engagement with China, signing major agreements for the construction of roads, railway lines and power plants on a three-day visit to the Chinese capital.

Five deals signed: The two countries this signed five deals, including with Chinese assistance for the construction of a power plant in Patuakhali and building a multi-lane road tunnel under the Karnaphuli River. The two sides are yet to reach an agreement on the Sonadia port project, Mr. Xi described Bangladesh as an important country along the “maritime silk road” project that he has been championing, which envisages deepening connectivity, building ports and free trade zones, and boosting trade with littoral countries in the Indian Ocean region and in Southeast Asia.

Chinese President's visit to Bangladesh:

The 14th October, 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visited Bangladesh. It was a landmark for their relations. There are so many factors behind it. After three decades, a Chinese President is visiting Bangladesh, signifying growing importance of the country in South Asia’s economics and geo-politics, reported by ‘the Daily Star’. 27 deals on co-operation in a number of sectors, 15 agreements and MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) and 12 loan

and mutual agreement were signed on this visit. China will fund \$21.5 billion in 28 development projects and foreign aid, \$80.3 million on economic and technical co-operation, \$700 million on loan agreement for Karnaphuli tunnel construction and \$280 million on credit agreement for Dashekandi Sewerage Treatment Plant Project.

Actually Bangladesh-China relations are being diversified with various projects and agendas from past to present, fundamental of which is trade and others come to front with different strategic importance either for Bangladesh or for China. However, loan is not better for any development because it undermines the economy when it becomes more than affordable. Although Bangladesh has signed a huge number of loan agreements, needs to keep in mind that we need aid but loan burden may exploit our quality and strength for further development.

4. OBOR or BRI and Bangladesh

Bangladesh's foreign secretary Shahidul Haque explained at length the need to balance "sovereignty" issue and "economic integration" during his interaction at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 5th October 2017 in New Delhi.

Haque spoke on the economic limitations that Bangladesh faces and hence the need to build linkages even with China. "In case of Bangladesh, we realised that we are both geographically very small but we have, in order to overcome those limitations, to weave ourselves with the rest of the world. That's why economic, social and political issues remain very fundamental to our state practices irrespective of government," he said. "We cannot remain link-less in the current situation. We have to go beyond. And that's what we think would eventually benefit us. We look at sovereignty and integration rather from a different angle," he added. Speaking during the discussion "Asia's New Normal" at the WEF conference, the Bangladesh foreign secretary emphasised on the importance of economic growth and said that sometimes the issue of sovereignty need to take the "backseat" to "economic integration" emphasising that the country stood behind Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's decision. "We can't forget what the people want and before joining BRI we had several discussions with civil society, and it was clear, what we need is connectivity.

For us as a country, what we need is quick up gradation of our infrastructure and our generation wants much more interaction and connectivity," Haque said. Bangladesh is trying to balance ties with India and China keeping its own geo-political and economic interests in mind. "Economic issues now dictate how much sovereignty one should exert," Haque said at the forum. China's \$4 trillion OBOR initiative will span 65 countries with 70 per cent of the

world's population. Bangladesh formally declared joining China's OBOR initiative during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2016. All major political parties welcomed Xi's visit, the first by a Chinese President in three decades.

5. China's Advantage to be in Bangladesh

No Border Links or Boundary Disputes:

Bangladesh and India, geographically two neighbouring countries located in the South Asia. The total length of border of Bangladesh is about 5138 kilometer with 4427 kilometer land border and 711 kilometer water border. Bangladesh has 4,096 kilometer common border with India. Bangladesh has 32 border districts whilst India has five border provinces. Bangladesh and India both the countries have bilateral issues from the emergence of them. Border Disputes and Border Killing is Common and most discussed issue in this two countries relations. Where China doesn't have a single meter of border with Bangladesh and it's not a direct Neighbour like India. It's a huge advantage for china, history say china had solved border issue with numbers of country expect India. If they have border both the country would have not been success like now. Certain thinks they might compromise, but not now.

Non-Interference in Internal Politics of Bangladesh:

From 2003, china took a policy called 'peaceful emergence'. Because of that policy china mostly concentrate on trade and economics not in politics. China is not at all interfering of internal politics of Bangladesh, where Bangladeshi's common masses always blame that India is controlling our politics as well as Election Process. China shows a Model of peace in Bangladesh for boosting their development. For that china is helping various development project of Bangladesh. Their Relations mostly based on Trade and Commerce and Technological Transfers.

Relations based on Trade and Commerce

Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) and China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC) signed an agreement of shareholders for development of Chinese economic and industrial zone in southeastern Bangladesh on 15 June 2017.

“China always supports bi-lateral trade development and promotion between China and Bangladesh. China wants to invest more in business sector and Chinese businessmen are now coming to invest in Bangladesh as it has potentials.”

China is developing a 750-acre industrial park in Bangladesh which will largely be used by Chinese manufacturing firms. State-run China Harbour Engineering Company will hold a 70% share in a joint venture being formed for the park with the Bangladesh Special Economic

Zone Authority (BSEZA). This is for the first time China has received such a facility from the Bangladesh government where Chinese investors will be able to set up industries, mainly manufacturing firms. But earlier India had that kind of potential in different manner in Bangladesh.

Technology Transfers

In Bangladesh, names on the bestseller list of smartphones top Chinese brands like Huawei, Oppo, Xiaomi and Vivo that collectively nowadays sell almost as many handsets as the other big brands.

These Chinese brands have closely matched their competitors over the last few years, clinching top positions in terms of market share. Chinese brands are continuing to outperform their global counterparts in Bangladesh where there are currently over 130 million phone users. This is one of the examples of Chinese technological products in Bangladesh. There are so many sectors where china took their attention of the Bangladeshi markets.

6. Why Chinese Presence in Bangladesh a Matter for India

There are various numbers of reasons for India to concern about china in Bangladesh. Few of them, I am going to discuss.

Legacy of 1971

India's links with Bangladesh are civilizational, cultural, social and economic. There is much that unites the two countries a shared history and common heritage, linguistic and cultural ties, passion for music, literature and the arts. The two nations were strong allies during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. The two countries developed different Cold War alliances in the 1980s, which further chilled bilateral relations. With the onset of economic liberalization in South Asia, they forged greater bilateral engagement and trade. The historic Ganges Water Sharing Treaty was concluded in 1996. India and Bangladesh are close strategic partners in counter-terrorism. They are also the largest trading partners in South Asia.

The historic land boundary agreement was signed on 6 June 2015 which opened a new era in the relations and further stopped all irritants in ties. They are common members of SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA and the Commonwealth. The two countries share many cultural ties. In particular, Bangladesh and the East Indian states of West Bengal and Tripura are Bengali-speaking.

India-China Complex Relationship

The bilateral relationship between India and China influences and has repercussions both within South and East Asia and globally. If their rise to power is achieved in a mutually supportive manner, it would ensure security. These are noble sentiments.

India-China bilateral relations cannot be judged through the lens of an extended period of equanimity or of superficial bonhomie. It transcends definition, both in context and timeframe, encompasses myriad parts and is almost completely influenced by the past and the present of both the nations. It is obvious that the current trajectory will be projected into the future, where both convergence and divergence of interests is bound to take place. Both the nations are tied down by their individual rich historical and cultural traditions, which cannot be willed away. The past will always be a backdrop for the present.

It's show that, India won't allow such power in south Asia. Who can be security threat for India? That's why India doesn't count China-Bangladesh Relations is Positive for their Security of trade and Friendship.

BRI or OBOR

India is not going to join in Chinese globalise project called 'belt and road initiative' or 'one belt one road' which India boycotted for its own reasons. The call for peaceful cooperation and simultaneous rise to powerful status and to herald the 21 century as the Asian Century vanished almost overnight. But Bangladesh part of its. And Chinese premier xi said Bangladesh will be the active part of china leads Asia. That means Bangladesh is our closest friend. It obvious that India never wants to lose their friend like Bangladesh, in this case India has concern over Bangladesh joining in OBOR.

7. What are the Issues for Bangladesh to Look Over China not to India?

There are so many experiences and factors with India, which is leading Bangladesh to be with China not India. Will focused in some of the sentence.

- ✓ Teesta and Joint rivers water sharing Treaty
- ✓ Construction and Infrastructure Development
- ✓ Bilateral Trade and Commerce (Trade Imbalance)
- ✓ Border Killing
- ✓ Terrorism
- ✓ Illegal Trade and Smuggling
- ✓ Illegal Migration (Both Side)
- ✓ Political Influences
- ✓ Securities Concern

- ✓ Transit and Transshipment

8. What is the Indian Strategy to Counter China in Bangladesh?

Border haats

Border haats along the border of two countries are established under a MOU for Border Trade and Border Haats. It was signed by the two countries in 2010.

Key facts of Border Haats

- ✓ The aim of this Border Haat is to enhance border trade between the two countries.
- ✓ It will also cater to the needs of the people living within a five km radius in this border area.
- ✓ It will facilitate bilateral trade of 16 locally produced goods between both nations. It includes agricultural and horticultural crops, spices and poultry.
- ✓ It will also boost people to people contacts between the two countries.
- ✓ This bilateral trade will take place once a week in this haat and each trader is allowed to do business of US \$ 100 per day.

Simplification of Visa Process

It's not so far, few years before getting multiple India visa from was kind of war. There was too much hassle. But now India simplify there visa system for Bangladeshi citizen. They have opened so many visa centres in different of Bangladesh, according to Bangladesh tourist it also not sufficient. Their demand is visa free travel like Nepal and Bhutan in India.

BGB to use India territory for border security

Bangladesh and India have taken the decision at a ministerial level to boost up border security. Home Minister of Bangladesh Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said on July 31, 2016. Objective of this initiative is Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will be able to use roads in remote areas of Indian Territory for patrolling. Bangladesh and India have taken the decision at a ministerial level to boost up border security.

Connectivity

With other bus, rail and air connectivity like Kolkata to Dhaka bus, Dhaka to Kolkata rail networked some of the new initiative a took place in recent time, by this connectivity project India tries to connect more with Bangladesh government as well people of Bangladesh.

A trial bus carrying delegates of India, Bangladesh and Nepal from Dhaka to Kathmandu indurated at 24 April 2018. The bus, operated by Kolkata-based Shyamoli Paribahan is part of a trial run between the three nations under the Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement of 2015.

On the other hand The Bandhan Express is an international passenger train which runs between the Indian city of Kolkata and the Bangladeshi city of Khulna. It is the 2nd modern train link between the Indian state of West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Civil Nuclear and defense cooperation

In a landmark development India for the first time signed a tripartite agreement on Thursday with foreign partners Russia & Bangladesh for civil nuclear cooperation. The agreement was signed in Moscow by Deputy Director General of Rosatom (Russia's civil nuclear body) Nikolay Spassky, Ambassador of Bangladesh in Russia S.M. Saiful Hoque and Indian Ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran on 28 February 2018.

Tit for tat policy over rohingya crisis

In this flurry of diplomatic activity, it would be natural to ask why India has been so soft-footed and silent in comparison. As the subcontinent's biggest nation, neighbour to both Bangladesh and Myanmar, as well as the country most likely to be affected if the numbers of Rohingya refugees continue to grow, India in fact should be showing the most initiative in this crisis. Instead, through a series of blunders that began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's own visit to Myanmar, India has allowed its voice to be muffled. Even as hundreds of thousands were fleeing violence at home, Mr. Modi refused to refer to the Rohingya in his press statements in Naypyidaw in early September. Nor did India refer to anything other than the terror strike by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army while discussing the violence in Rakhine. It wasn't until two days later, and after some prodding from Ms. Hasina, that the Indian foreign office even issued a statement of concern over the refugee crisis that had reached alarming proportions, something the U.S. has now called a clear case of "ethnic cleansing". Moreover, in Bali, India refused to endorse a 50-nation parliamentary conference's declaration because it referenced the Rohingya. Every other South Asian country, including Buddhist-majority Bhutan and Sri Lanka, endorsed the Bali declaration. It's giving single to Bangladesh that if you be with china India will give their hand to Myanmar.

9. Recommendation to Improve Relations between India and Bangladesh

a) Agreement on water sharing should be given priority. Early resolution of the Teesta issue is necessary. c) Security cooperation between the two countries has been good. But there is need for institutionalizing this cooperation so that it does not remain restricted to the tenure of a particular government in either country. In this regard, a beginning could be made by signing the bilateral extradition treaty. d) Connectivity should be given top most priority. Both the

countries should work together to operationalize it. e) There is need for addressing the issue of illegal migration. In this regard innovative measures should be taken to resolve the problem, being extra careful to ensure that illegal migrants do not acquire voting rights and Indian nationality. f) People-to-people contact needs to be encouraged; hence liberal visa system should be put in place. g) Trade relationship has improved significantly between the two countries. India has provided zero duty access of Bangladeshi products thereby addressing the tariff related issue to a great extent. The two countries should now consider an agreement on non-tariff barriers. h) Indian investment should be encouraged in Bangladesh through visits of trade delegations, trade fairs, and bilateral assurances on protection of the interests of potential investors. i) Progress can be made by cooperating on common challenges like disaster management, food and energy security. j) Greater involvement of people and wider public debate on foreign policy issues will discourage conspiracy theories and distrust. k) A greater level of people-to-people contact should be encouraged. l) Implement the no-firing policy fully. Ensure accountability to ensure that the image of India as an enemy ceases to exist. m) Fencing needs to be completed speedily and monitored effectively. This would create misgivings but also ensure that Bangladesh knows that India means business. The state governments and the Indian border forces seem receptive to such an idea.

10. Conclusion

While some Bangladeshi experts argue for a tit-for-tat balancing strategy with China, the intimate ties of geography, history and culture determine that Bangladesh cannot pursue a blind policy of equidistance between Delhi and Beijing. Attempts to deviate from this have led to occasional tensions in the past, but the current positive bilateral momentum is due to PM Hasina's informal "India first" focus on key issues that impinge on Indian core security and economic interests.

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Useful Resources:

Website of Indian High Commission: www.hcidhaka.gov.in

Indian Visa Application Centre, Bangladesh - <http://www.ivacbd.com/>